

(3) The membership of ASEAN has expanded to 10 countries since its establishment in 1967.

(4) The United States seeks to maintain and further develop a constructive and cordial relationship with ASEAN.

(5) The countries comprising ASEAN—

(A) constitute the 3rd largest export market for United States products;

(B) have received nearly \$90,000,000,000 in direct investment from United States sources; and

(C) are developing an integrated free trade area.

(6) Trade between the United States and the countries comprising ASEAN totals approximately \$130,000,000,000.

(7) ASEAN continues to contribute to regional stability in East Asia and has partnered with the United States to combat global terror.

(8) In 2006, approximately 38,000 students from the countries comprising ASEAN were studying in the United States.

(9) The countries comprising ASEAN share a common concern with the United States regarding—

(A) the spread of avian influenza and other diseases; and

(B) environmental issues, such as the preservation of biodiversity and the prevention of illegal logging.

(10) It is in the long-term interest of the United States to maintain and expand a relationship with ASEAN.

(11) The United States does not have an Ambassador to ASEAN, which limits the ability of the United States and ASEAN to respond quickly and appropriately to events of mutual interest.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FOR ASEAN.

(a) **APPOINTMENT.**—There is established in the Department of State the position of United States Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs, who shall be appointed by the President, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific should be designated as the Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs.

NAVAL VESSELS TRANSFER ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 564, S. 3722.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3722) to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3722) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3722

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. TRANSFERS BY GRANT.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) **LITHUANIA.**—To the Government of Lithuania, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ships KINGFISHER (MHC-56) and CORMORANT (MHC-57).

(2) **PORTUGAL.**—To the Government of Portugal, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates GEORGE PHILIP (FFG-12) and SIDES (FFG-14).

(3) **TURKEY.**—To the Government of Turkey, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship BLACK HAWK (MHC-58).

SEC. 3. TRANSFERS BY SALE.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761), as follows:

(1) **TAIWAN.**—To the authorities in Taiwan, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ships ORIOLE (MHC-55) and FALCON (MHC-59).

(2) **TURKEY.**—To the Government of Turkey, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship SHRIKE (MHC-62).

(3) **MEXICO.**—To the Government of Mexico, the AUSTIN class amphibious transport dock ships OGDEN (LPD-5) and CLEVELAND (LPD-7).

SEC. 4. GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by section 2 shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred to countries in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

SEC. 5. COSTS OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS.

Notwithstanding section 516(e)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)(1)), any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized under section 2 shall be charged to the recipient.

SEC. 6. REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.

To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the country to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed before the vessel joins the naval forces of that country performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

SEC. 7. APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO FOREIGN NATIONS BY VESSEL CLASS.

Section 7307(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or vessels of that class” after “that vessel”.

SEC. 8. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority to transfer a vessel under this Act shall expire at the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

STOLEN VALOR ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1998 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will please report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1998) to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections relating to the reputation and meaning of the Medal of Honor and other military decorations and awards, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1998) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1998

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stolen Valor Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Fraudulent claims surrounding the receipt of the Medal of Honor, the distinguished-service cross, the Navy cross, the Air Force cross, the Purple Heart, and other decorations and medals awarded by the President or the Armed Forces of the United States damage the reputation and meaning of such decorations and medals.

(2) Federal law enforcement officers have limited ability to prosecute fraudulent claims of receipt of military decorations and medals.

(3) Legislative action is necessary to permit law enforcement officers to protect the reputation and meaning of military decorations and medals.

SEC. 3. ENHANCED PROTECTION OF MEANING OF MILITARY DECORATIONS AND MEDALS.

(a) **EXPANSION OF GENERAL CRIMINAL OFFENSE.**—Subsection (a) of section 704 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “manufactures, or sells” and inserting “purchases, attempts to purchase, solicits for purchase, mails, ships, imports, exports, produces blank certificates of receipt for, manufactures, sells, attempts to sell, advertises for sale, trades, barter, or exchanges for anything of value”.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CRIMINAL OFFENSE RELATING TO FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT RECEIPT OF DECORATIONS AND MEDALS.**—Such section 704 is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) **FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT RECEIPT OF MILITARY DECORATIONS OR MEDALS.**—Whoever falsely represents himself or herself, verbally or in writing, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States, any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration, or medal, or any colorable imitation of such item shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than six months, or both.”; and

(3) in paragraph (1) of subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”.